

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5, 9 and 10 are pending in the present application. No amendments were made by the present response. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested in view of the following discussion.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that claim 9 has been allowed.

As to the Merits:

As to the merits of this case, the Examiner relies on the newly cited references of Lueck et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,721,710) and Fujii et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,816,491) in setting forth the following rejections:

- 1) claims 1, 5 and 10 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Lueck et al.; and
- 2) claims 1 and 5 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Fujii et al.

Each of these rejections is respectfully traversed.